

Jbara, Jennie L

From: Jenn Lagasse <jlagasse@ellsworthschools.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 12:43 PM
To: Dockets
Subject: Re: Docket number: MC2021-78

Jennifer Lagasse
Ellsworth Elementary Middle School
20 Forrest Avenue
Ellsworth, ME 04605

Hon. Michael Kubayanda Chairman
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001
Re: Docket number: MC2021-78

April 28, 2021

Dear Chairman Kubayanda,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the impact of moving bound printed matter parcels from the Market Dominant to the Competitive Product category. I know this will dramatically increase the rates for flyers and books that are mailed to schools.

I teach third grade in Ellsworth, Maine, and there is no doubt that the additional costs will ultimately be passed on to those purchasing books—students and their families. There are already too many barriers to reading for most families I work with. I depend on access to affordable books, which the bound printed matter rates provide, to help me close the gap for my lower-income students who normally could not afford higher-priced books.

I, myself, purchase books for my students every month in order for them to have access to high quality books in their homes. Should this increase occur, I will not be able to purchase books for my students, a financial hardship I voluntarily put upon myself for the benefit of my students.

Typically, more than 95% of my students come from families that don't have the means to create home libraries for their children. As a Scholastic Book Clubs partner, I am able to earn and use Bonus Points to build a classroom library of books for my students. I also use low-cost but high-quality books as rewards in my class for children who would otherwise never have a new book of their own. These books, both in the classroom and at home, continue to inspire a love of reading in my students, which has a positive impact on their success in all areas of life.

The pandemic has already had a tremendously negative consequence on my students' learning experience and literacy rates in the United States. The increase in mailing costs of educational materials will make access to children's literature even more difficult. I urge you to deny this transfer, or to exempt educational materials, so that I can continue to provide access to affordable, quality books for my students and families. The impact of this change for our school children would be too high a cost to bear.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Lagasse

CC: Hon. Carolyn B. Maloney
Hon. Gary C. Peters
Hon. Ron A. Bloom

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Jenn Lagasse
Grade 3 Teacher
Ellsworth Elementary Middle School

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